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Moore

Synthesis Essay

Education and the Poor

High level education is becoming a very important in the world today. People need degree’s to get the “good” jobs to make the money they need to support their families. For many this is achievable with a little hard work and some help with from family. The poor are just doing seem to have the money, or drive to making it though. There are many factors at play however, the big three seem to be that they either the parents or guardians are not nurturing their kids and giving them good work ethics to succeed, A lack of money is keeping the lower class from being able to get into college and succeed, or finally it’s the culture of America to look down on the poor and minorities and it discourages these children from wanting to succeed in society to become productive individuals in society.

Children growing up in a poor family are less likely to have good work ethics and a nurturing environment for learning. Brink Lindsey, Vice president for research at the conservative Cato Institute says that children who are in the lower class tend to not get near as much verbal interaction with their parents. They are less likely to receive words of encouragement than parents in the upper class give. (Lindsey 455) A writer for the journal *off our backs*, Angel Locke says there are exceptions. Her mother never went to college but always encouraging her to read and in her early age began teaching her daughter how to discuss books with her. (Locke 450) Matt Yglesias, a fellow at the center for American Progress, a staff writer at the American Project, and a blogger on thinkprogress.org says that one of the most important areas that need to be strengthened is early childhood education. (Yglesias 464) Lindsey agrees saying many preschool programs that are more involved and challenging are needed to prepare children for high level education. This would effectively counteract the parental involvement needed when parents are unable to stimulate their children and push them to new heights. (Lindsey 456)

There is a problem coming up with the money needed for college in low income families. Locke says it can be done even when you are in the low income range. She managed to put herself through school though it took a little longer and she had to work for it. (Locke 541) Lindsey says that many of the poor mainly minorities can get the money to go to school it’s the lack of skills. Yglesias believes the upper class should pay for many of the government programs we have today. Yglasias suggests we invest in early childhood education and it would be very safe to assume his fix for this problem would rely on taxing the upper class and redistribute the wealth to help pay for the lower income levels college education by grants and other various scholarships. (Yglesias 465) Lindsey believes that while money could be a factor it’s more or less on the parents to children to strive for success, if they wish to get into college. (Lindsey 455)

Finally, America’s culture has role in the lack of low income students getting into college. People simply look down on them. Locke experienced this first hand as she was in college. While attending she was around middle and upper class students. She was often frowned upon as she continued to break the social norms and work her way up. Locke also says she recalls feeling like an outsider in two worlds. (Locke 451) Lindsey agrees there is a major problem with the culture of America. African American’s and other minorities get looked down upon for succeeding. Lindsey calls this the “acting white stigma” (Lindsey 455) To back this up Lindsey shows test scores that indicate that these minorities and low income students just don’t do as well on these tests, partly because of how their raised and partly due to not wanting to break the social norm. (Lindsey 453)

Success in America is rapidly changing. College degrees are becoming more and more of a necessity than an option. Low income families tend to struggle to get their children into college for a number of reasons. Brink Lindsey seems to think it has more to do with the children’s parents and how just aren’t equipped with the skills and values they need to teach their children to succeed and make it into college. Matt Yglasias seems to believe the primary reason may be a lack of money or government services to help get children on the right path whether it is financial troubles or just a need for a more challenging environment. Finally all the authors tend to mention that the culture we live in today really looks down on the minorities and low income families as they do not succeed as the middle and upper-class do. These feelings appear to cause children in the low class to not want to succeed since it makes them stand out and creates tension.